

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) ~~An agree~~ A branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

an agree branch predictor having at least one split branch history shift register comprising at least a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of user ~~instructions;~~ instructions, and at least a second branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of operating system instructions, wherein the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register are separated.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~agree~~ branch prediction apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:

a Gshare branch predictor comprising the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register.

44. (Currently Amended) ~~An agree~~ A branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

[[a]] an agree branch predictor having at least one split branch history Gshare branch predictor comprising a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with a first operating context selected from a preselected plurality of operating ~~contexts;~~ contexts, and a second branch history shift register included in the Gshare branch predictor, wherein the second branch history shift register is to store correlated branch history information associated with a second operating context selected from the preselected plurality of operating contexts.

45. (Currently Amended) A ~~multi-hybrid~~ branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

a multi-hybrid branch predictor having at least one split branch history shift register comprising at least a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of user instructions; instructions, and at least a second branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of operating system instructions, wherein the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register are separated.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~multi-hybrid~~ branch prediction apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

a Gshare branch predictor comprising the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register.

47. (Currently Amended) A ~~multi-hybrid~~ branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

a multi-hybrid branch predictor having at least one split branch history Gshare branch predictor comprising a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with a first operating context selected from a preselected plurality of operating ~~contexts~~; contexts, and a second branch history shift register included in the Gshare branch predictor, wherein the second branch history shift register is to store correlated branch history information associated with a second operating context selected from the preselected plurality of operating contexts.

48. (Currently Amended) A ~~bi-mode~~ branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

a bi-mode branch predictor having at least one split branch history shift register comprising at least a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of user instructions; instructions, and at least a second branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with an execution of a plurality of operating system instructions, wherein the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register are separated.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~bi-mode~~ branch prediction apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

a Gshare branch predictor comprising the first branch history shift register and the second branch history shift register.

50. (Currently Amended) A ~~bi-mode~~ branch prediction apparatus, comprising:

a bi-mode branch predictor having at least one split branch history Gshare branch predictor comprising a first branch history shift register to store correlated branch history information associated with a first operating context selected from a preselected plurality of operating contexts; contexts, and a second branch history shift register included in the Gshare branch predictor, wherein the second branch history shift register is to store correlated branch history information associated with a second operating context selected from the preselected plurality of operating contexts.